

REMARKS

I have carefully reviewed the Office Action of November 3, 2006 by Examiner Batson. The Examiner's rejections of claims 1 and 24 are respectfully traversed for the reasons specifically noted hereafter in conjunction with the discussion of claim 1 and the discussion of the Examiner's 35 USC 112 rejections. The Examiner's rejection of claim 12 has been overcome by appropriate amendments as specifically described hereafter in conjunction with the discussion of amended claim 12 and new claims 29 and 30.

The Rejection of Claim 1 Is Traversed

The Examiner's use of Smith against claim 1 repeats some of the prosecution previously had with Examiner Newville, who had applied Smith as a 102 reference against claim 1 in the Office Action of 09/30/2005. In response to that Office Action, claim 1 was amended to its current form in the Request for Extension of Time and Amendment dated 02/28/2006. In response to that paper and the arguments contained therein, Examiner Newville then discontinued the 102 application of Smith against claim 1 and shifted to the application of Godberson against claim 1. Now, Examiner Batson has come full circle by going back and reapplying Smith to claim 1. Such a 102 application is in error and should be withdrawn.

Regardless of whether or not the actuator of Smith can be considered to be a "powered actuator", claim 1 clearly calls for the actuator to be "mounted on and carried by the front wheel support." In addition, claim 1 calls for the front wheel support to be that part "on which the steerable front wheel is rotatably journaled". Claim 1 also calls for the front wheel support to be "pivotal about a vertical pivot axis to pivot the front wheel from side to side to steer the vehicle." So, there must be a front wheel support that is "pivotal about a vertical pivot axis" and the powered actuator must be "mounted on and carried by the front wheel support".

The Examiner notes that the (operator) powered actuator in Smith comprises the components 37, 36, 33. These components are shown in Fig. 1 of Smith. All of these components are mounted on and carried by the frame of the tractor in Smith. **None of these components are mounted on and carried by Smith's pivotal front wheel support 14.** Accordingly, Smith cannot and does not anticipate claim 1 under 35 USC 102.

The Examiner's rejection of claim 1 based upon Smith is in error and should be withdrawn. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over Smith.

Amended Claim 12

The Examiner indicated that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of claim 19 have been added to claim 12 so that amended claim 12 is an independent version of claim 19. Accordingly, claim 12 is allowable without further comment.

Note that claim 12 has been further amended to remove typographical errors from claim 12. These errors relate to the phrase "the the sand" that incorrectly includes a duplicate use of the word "the". This duplicate use has been eliminated in the amended claim 12.

New Claims 29 and 30

The Examiner also indicated that claims 14 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 18 have been so amended and have been placed into independent form as new claims 29 and 30. Accordingly, new claims 29 and 30 are allowable without further comment.

Allowed Claim 21

Allowed claim 21 has been amended to replace the word connector with coupler for antecedent basis reasons. There is no antecedent basis for the word connector but there is antecedent basis for the word coupler. This amendment does not affect the allowability of claim 21.

The Examiner's 112 Rejections Are Traversed

It is not clear whether Examiner Batson is aware of and has seen the **Amendments to the Specification** and the **Amendments to the Drawings** that were submitted to Examiner Newville in the Request for Extension of Time and Amendment dated 02/28/2006. It is believed that these Amendments do not introduce new matter and more clearly show subject matter that was described in the original specification but not shown in the original drawings. This subject matter comprises the blower (to be shown in proposed new Fig. 7), box scraper (to be shown in proposed new Fig. 8) and rake (to be shown in proposed new Fig. 9). Thus, this basis for the Examiner's rejection has already been dealt with. Examiner Newville had accepted the previously offered amendments to the specification and drawings.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 24 based on the fact that the second quick attachment is not shown or described as being of a like kind and size as the first quick attachment, again the second quick attachment is now shown in the added Figs. 7-9 that were submitted to Examiner Newville. This depiction of the second quick attachment only makes explicit what was expressly or implicitly described in the original specification.

In this regard, the Examiner should note that the original specification clearly expressly stated that the quick attachment 22 (i.e. the quick attachment shown on the front of the vehicle) could also be used on the rear of the frame to mount various implements. **See original paragraph 38.** In addition, the specification described that the same blower could be interchangeably used on

the quick attachments 22 on either the front or the rear of the vehicle. **See original paragraph 39 describing the interchangeable front and rear use of the same blower.** Clearly, if the same blower has one half of a quick attachment and can be used interchangeably both on the front and the rear of the vehicle, then the quick attachments on the front and the rear of the vehicle must be of like kind and size. The words "like kind and size" may not have been expressly used in the specification, but the specification clearly establishes that this is implicitly taught by what was disclosed.

Accordingly, the Examiner's 35 USC 112 rejections are not well founded and should be withdrawn.

Uncertainty in the Office Action as to Status of Claim 24

The Office Action Summary indicated that claims 24-27 were allowed, but the Examiner then rejected claims 24-27 under 35 USC 112 in the detailed portion of the Office Action. I have assumed that the claim rejection set forth in the detailed portion of the Office Action is what the Examiner intended. However, in view of the traversal of the 35 USC 112 ground of rejection of claims 24-27 as set forth above, and since there are no prior art rejection of claims 24-27, such claims should now be allowed.

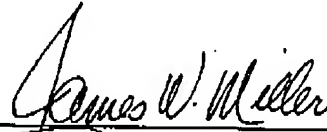
Summary

All of the claims remaining in this application are allowable. Prompt

allowance of this application and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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